NER to increase the flow of credit to their affiliated societies/ cultivators.

The revitalization measures suggested by the Task Force/Jóint Committee will be able to take care of cooperative credit Institutions in NER.

Broadening of Tax System

53. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering to streamline the present tax system effectively; and'

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAM ACH AND RAN): (a) and (b) Streamlining the tax system is an ongoing process, and such amendments to the Income-tax Act as are considered necessary in this regard are brought in every year through the Finance Bill. The further measures which may be taken this year will form part of the budget proposals.

Tax sops for Credit Card Transactions

54. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'Times of India', dated 10th January, 2002, under the heading "Tax sops for credit card transactions sought";

(b) if so, what is the Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal of India Cooperation Committee (ICC) to launch tax incentives on payment *via* credit cards like Korea Model;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) All such issues are considered as a part of the annual budget exercise. The Government's response thereto, if any, will be reflected in the forthcoming budget proposals.

Creation of Customs Preventive Commissionerates

55. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to create Customs Preventive Commissionerates in different parts of the country especially in Coastal States in order to check smuggling of dangerous explosives, modernised weapons and drugs in coastal areas;

(b) if so, the number of Customs Preventive Commissionerates to be created in Orissa; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check rampant smuggling in coastal areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Government is presently engaged in cadre restructuring of various grades of posts in the Customs and Central Excise field formations which may result in the creation of new commissionerates of Central Excise and Customs including Customs Preventive Commissionerates in some parts of the country. There is no proposal for creation of a separate customs preventive commissionerate in the State of Orissa at present.

(c) All the field formations under Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant, alert and equipped to prevent smuggling of .contraband goods all over the country including coastal areas.